

MEETING MINUTES (TRANSCRIPT SUMMARY)

TRUCKEE RIVER FUND ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2024

(Meeting via Teleconference and In-Person)

The following meeting minutes is a summary of the certified transcript for the Truckee River Fund Advisory Committee meeting held at 8:30 a.m., Friday, August 16, 2024, via Zoom and teleconference.

Those Present:

Committee Members: Jim Smitherman, Chair; Terri Svetich, Vice Chair; Brian Bonnenfant, Bill Bradley, Mike Brisbin, Peter Gower, Neoma Jardon, Dave Stanley.

Also: Lauren Renda, Community Foundation of Western Nevada; Sonia Folsom, Nate Allen, Kara Steeland, TMWA; Justina Caviglia, Council for TRF; Susan Merideth, TRF Minutes Recorder.

Members of the Public: Audrey Bergmann (Sierra NV Journeys), Andrew Sauls (GreenVibe World), Iris Jehle-Peppard (One Truckee River), Darcy Phillips (KTMB), Anthony Porter (Tahoe Rim Trail Association), Lyndsey Langsdale (Reno Food Systems)

+ Committee member arrived after roll call ++ Committee member left meeting before adjournment

* Asterisks (*) denote non-action items

Agenda Item #1: Roll Call: Roll call was taken. A quorum was noted.

Agenda Item #2: Public comment: There was no public comment at this time.

Agenda Item #3: Approval of the agenda: Bill Bradley motioned to approved the agenda for the August 16th meeting, and Peter Gower seconded the motion. The agenda was unanimously approved.

Agenda Item #4: Approve the May Summary Meeting Minutes: Bill Bradley motioned to approve the Meeting Minutes (Transcript Summary) for May 17, 2024 written and Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion and the Minutes were unanimously approved by the Committee.

Agenda Item #5: Fund balance report: There is \$521,223.50 in new funds from TMWA available for Fall 2024 & Spring 2025. \$407,718 has been requested with the Fall RFPs. Jim Smitherman motioned to accept the fund balance report as submitted, and Brian Bonnenfant seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Agenda Item #6: Review grant proposals to Truckee River Fund and select projects to be recommended for funding:

The following grant proposals were considered and voted on by the group and approved, rejected/declined, or action taken as follows:

#293, Sierra Nevada Journeys: Watershed Education Initiative, amount requested \$31,699

Audrey Bergmann was present to discuss Sierra Nevada Journey's (SNJ) proposal for the continuation of watershed education program from previous years. The Committee noted that SNJ has received funding in the past and have successfully met their goals, and Terri Svetich highlighted the value of the project as an educational and teacher resource. The curriculum has been redesigned this year in an effort to increase enrollment, and they are now offering 2-day program to better accommodate teacher schedules. The full amount requested of \$31,699 was unanimously approved by the Committee.

#294, GreenVibe World: River Restoration & Stewardship Program, amount requested \$141,499.39

Andrew Sauls from GreenVibe World (GVW) was present to answer questions about the River Restoration & Stewardship Program (RRSP) proposal. Funding would be used to continue and scale stewardship, restoration, and clean-up efforts focused on and directly benefiting the Truckee River Watershed, as well as expand our service to the community, drive positive community engagement, and inspire others to do the same. The difference between the GVW program and other river clean-up initiatives is that they focus on removing homeless encampments on private property along Truckee River with site clean-up occurring immediately afterward to remove waste and debris before it gets into the river in an effort to provide safe recreation. In addition, they offer ongoing stewardship with maintenance 3 days a week. The RRSP has been operating with private funding and volunteer efforts, but they are looking to expand their program to increase their impact with this proposal.

Bill acknowledged the value of the program and the need for it in the community but would like to see GVW's proposal to TRF scaled down and for them to work on relationship building. Brian pointed out the immediate need for encampment cleanup with a new railroad ordinance going into effect in the next few months, displacing homeless who will most likely end up at the river.

Mike Brisbin motioned to ask GreenVibe World to refine and revise their RRSP proposal based on today's comments and to resubmit it during the next funding cycle, and Peter Gower seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

#295, One Truckee River: Watershed Coalition Building & River-Friendly Living Efforts, amount requested \$81,295

Iris Jehle-Peppard from One Truckee River (OTR) requested funding to continue to lead, coordinate, and resource the OTR partnerships and to increase the public's understanding of the Truckee River, OTR River-Friendly Living practices, and efforts to protect the Truckee River. Terri expressed the value of continued funding for these types of efforts to make them effective. The total request of \$81,295 was unanimously approved by the Committee.

#296, Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful: KTMB's 2025 Great Community Clean-Up, Truckee River Clean-Up, Truckee River Clean-Up, Adopt-A-River Program, and Community Education Program, amount requested \$97,410.32

Darcy Phillips, Executive Director of Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful (KTMB), presented their proposal to remove litter and invasive weeds along the Truckee River corridor and tributaries and to provide community education and outreach. This is a continuation of KTMB's Great Community Clean-Up and Truckee River Clean-Up efforts from previous years, but they are adding a youth education component this year. The total request of \$97,410.32 was approved by the Committee.

#297, Tahoe Rim Trail Association: Stewardship Education on the Tahoe River Trail, amount requested \$15,565

Anthony Porter from the Tahoe Rim Trail Association (TRTA) was present to answer questions about their proposal. This funding would be used to combat the human impacts of the Tahoe Rim Trail's 700,000+ annual recreators in the Lake Tahoe Basin Watershed through 500 hours of stewardship and environmental awareness education provided by TRTA Volunteer Ambassadors and Guides. This project will expand the TRTA's existing outreach programs to promote a waste management campaign playfully called "Poo-tect Tahoe" that will promote Leave No Trace ethics and a product called the PACT Kit which features mycelium tablets that decompose feces up to 10 times faster.

The Committee is concerned that the project mainly benefits Lake Tahoe without a direct connection to the Truckee River and as such chose not to fund the proposal. Peter Gower suggested refining future proposals to specifically address Truckee River tributaries in their efforts.

Mike Brisbin motioned to ask TRTA to revise their proposal based on Committee comments and resubmit in a future funding cycle, and Peter Gower seconded. The motion was unanimously approved by the Committee.

#298, Reno Food System: Regenerative Agriculture and Alum Creek Watershed Improvement Project, amount requested \$40,250

Lyndsey Langsdale from Reno Food Systems (RFS) was present to answer questions about their first proposal submitted to the TRF. RFS efforts will be focused on erosion control & reduced sedimentation.

This funding will be used to implement sustainable agricultural practices, including no-till farming, cover cropping, and rotational grazing, on a 5-acre urban farm in Reno to reduce sediment erosion and nutrient runoff while enhancing soil health and water quality. These improvements will impact Alum Creek and the Truckee River and will be complemented by educational workshops to increase community awareness and adoption of these practices.

The request for funding was not approved at this time. The Committee would like to see the proposal revised and resubmitted to include specifics on reducing nutrient runoff with quantifiable measures of water quality improvements, efforts to reduce cattle in the area and coordination with agricultural interests and land owners.

Mike Brisbin motioned to ask RFS to resubmit their request in the next funding cycle, and Terry Svetich seconded the motion. The Committee unanimously approved the motion.

Terri Svetich motioned to approve funding for the following projects at the full amount requested:

- **#293 Sierra Nevada Journeys, \$31,699:** Watershed Education Initiative
- **#295 One Truckee River, \$81,295:** Watershed Coalition Building & River-Friendly Living Efforts
- **#296 Keep Truckee Meadows Beautiful, \$97,410.32:** KTMB's 2025 Great Community Clean-Up, Truckee River Clean-Up, Truckee River Clean-Up, Adopt-A-River Program, and Community Education Program

Dave Stanley seconded the motion, and a total funding allocation of \$210,404.32 was unanimously approved by the Committee.

Project Advisors for the approved proposals were assigned as follows:

- #293 Jim Smitherman
- #295 Terri Svetich
- #296 Peter Gower

Agenda Item #7: Review completed projects

#272 Truckee River Watershed Council: Cold Stream Canyon – Cold Creek Streambank Stabilization, \$119,400 (Terri)

Terri Svetich reported that TRWC completed the activities specified in their proposal and met or exceeded all stated goals, exceeding expectations. Funding from TRF was used on the project mobilization and initiation of restoration actions phase of the stabilization project. There are plans to move forward with the construction phase this Fall. Terri personally has seen the progress at Cold Creek.

#285 Sierra Nevada Journeys: Watershed Education Initiative, \$35,933 (Jim)

Jim Smitherman reported that SNJs met or exceed their goals outline in their proposal, including the following outputs and outcomes.

Outputs:

- Delivered Watershed Education Initiative to over 700 K-8th grade students, with 26 teacher extension lessons and student local watershed experience.

Outcomes:

- 100% of students completed curriculum with “Hands in the River” experience at Truckee River sites
- 90% of students can identify the function of storm drains and ways to reduce pollution
- 80% of students feel comfortable in nature following their field study
- 95% if teachers reported the program is helping to build critical thinking among their students

Agenda Item #8: Committee and staff comments

Terri Svetich received an email from Jehle-Peppard at OTR regarding the One Truckee River Partnership Council (OTRPC), which includes collaborators from numerous agencies within the Truckee Meadows. Terri can see a benefit from having TRF represented on the Council but is concerned about potential conflict of interest since OTR regularly receives funding from TRF. Terri asked to have the OTRPC and potential TRF representation added to the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

Agenda Item #10: Next meeting: November 15, 2024 at 8:30am

Agenda Item #10: Public comment: *none*

Agenda Item #11: Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 am.